

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /074 W

----- 081734

R 061540Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4690

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETOJIA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, RH

SUBJECT: SMITH CONFIRMS PRECONDITION FOR TALKS DROPPED

REFERENCE: (A) BLANTYRE 651 (NOTAL); (B) CAPE TOWN 614

1. ACCORDING REPORTS IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS, RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH SAID IN RADIO INTERVIEW JUNE 4 THAT GOVERNMENT AND AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (ANC) HAVE AGREED TO DROP ALL PRECONDITIONS FOR HOLDING CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS. THIS CONFIRMS STATEMENT BY ANC SECRETARY GENERAL GORDON CHAVUNDUKA LAST WEEK THAT BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO DO AWAY WITH PRECONDITIONS (REF A).

2. PRELIMINARY MEETING BETWEEN SMITH AND ANC WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE JUNE 5 POSTPONED UNTIL AT LEAST NEXT WEEK. ANC
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REPORTEDLY ASKED DELAY BECAUSE ITS OFFICIALS BUSY HELPING

FAMILIES OF THOSE KILLED AND WOUNDED IN JUNE 1 RIOTING. (REF B).
ANC ALSO APPARENTLY DESIRES DELAY IN ORDER TO GIVE BISHOP ABEL
MUZOREWA AND LEADERSHIP TIME TO WORK ON HEALING RIFT BETWEEN
ZANU AND ZAPU FACTIONS WITHIN ANC.

3. COMMENT. DROPPING OF PRECONDITIONS BY ANC AND SMITH
RECOGNIZES CONTINUING STATE OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH LUSAKA
AGREEMENT, I.E. GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RELEASED ALL POLITICAL
PRISONERS AND ANC HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN HALTING GUERRILLA
ACTIVITY. THOUGH TALKS APPEAR TO BE CLOSER THAN IN RECENT MONTHS,
QUESTION REMAINS REGARDING SMITH'S MOTIVES. IF, AS MANY STILL
SUSPECT, SMITH NOT COMMITTED TO WORKING OUT SETTLEMENT, HIS
PRESSURE ON ANC TO COME TO CONFERENCE TABLE MAY BE PRODUCT OF
DESIRE TO SEE THAT FRAGILE ENTITY RIPPED ASSUNDER IN HEAT OF
NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WOULD BOLSTER HIS CONTENTION THAT OTHER
BLACK GROUPS, SUCH AS COMPLIANT COUNCIL OF CHIEFS, MORE
REPRESENTATIVE AND RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.
BOWDLER.

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